

REMARKS

The Office Action in the above-identified application has been carefully considered and this amendment has been presented to place this application in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, an early examination on the merits of the claims of this application is respectfully solicited.

Claims 25-30 are in the present application. The new claims as presented herein, are not submitted for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. sections 101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these claims are submitted simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled. Claims 1-24 are canceled.

The Examiner identifies seven species, corresponding to the embodiments shown in Figures 2, 6, 9, 12, 15, 18, and 21, respectively. Species I was elected for prosecution in the parent application. It is submitted that claims 4, 7-11, 18-20, and 22-24 were readable on the above-identified drawing figures as follows:

Species I, Figs. 1-5, upon which claims 7 and 9-11 read.

Species II, Figs. 1 and 6-8, upon which claims 4 and 8 read.

Species III, Figs. 1 and 9-11, upon which no claims read.

Species IV, Figs. 1 and 12-14, upon which no claims read.

Species V, Figs. 1 and 15, upon which claims 22-24 read.

Species VI, Figs. 16-20, upon which no claims read.

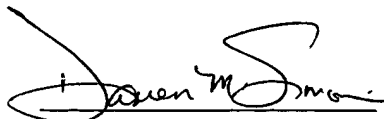
Applicants elect, **without traverse**, Species II corresponding to Figures 1 and 6-8, including claims 4 and 8, for further prosecution in the present application. All original claims (1-24) have now been canceled and new claims 25-30 (directed specifically to Species II) are presented. The features defined by these claims are fully disclosed in the specification and shown in Figures 6-8. No new matter is presented.

Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications, if necessary, so as to proceed with the examination of the non-elected claims.

No additional fees are deemed to be required for the filing of this amendment, but if such are required, the Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below. The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,
FROMMER LAWRENCE & HAUG LLP

By: 
Darren M. Simon
Reg. No. 47,946
(212) 588-0800